

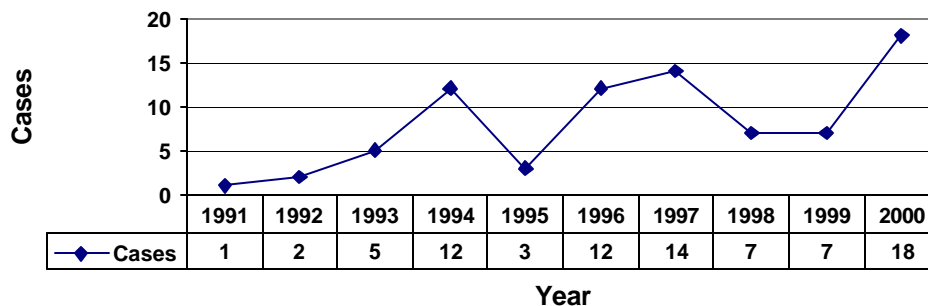
MALARIA

Malaria is a parasitic infection of red blood cells caused by *Plasmodium species*. The disease is vectorborne and is transmitted to humans by the bites of the infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes. Malaria is characterized by cycles of chills, fever, headache, and sweating. Depending upon the species, acute illness may develop into a variety of syndromes with severe complications including coma and death. Malaria also may be transmitted transplacentally. The disease may recur over a period of 50 years.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Demonstration of malaria parasites in blood films.

**Malaria Cases, Kentucky
1991-2000**



Incidence in Kentucky

2000

Number of Cases

18

Cases by Gender

Female

3

Male

15

None of the cases in 2000 were indigenous to Kentucky. Nine of the eighteen cases were military related, all reporting exposure in South Korea. Four of the infections were acquired in Africa, 2 in Central America, 1 in South America, 1 in Pakistan and 1 in India.